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Executive Registry

72-208

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 4, 1972

The Honorable Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia

Dear Mr. Helms:

Thank you for your letter of October 20 stating that Mr. Jack Maury would be put in touch with Mr. Marcy to discuss our request for National Intelligence Estimates.

The Committee appreciates the help that your Agency is willing to lend to our staff which is studying U.S.-Vietnam Relations, 1945-1967. I feel that such cooperation between the Executive and our Committee can be most useful. However, we would appreciate having access to those National Intelligence Estimates and Special National Intelligence Estimates relating to Vietnam from 1950 to 1969 that are mentioned in the Department of Defense study as well as any other documents which you feel would be useful to our researchers. Without access to all pertinent primary documents, the effort of our staff and the Committee to make as accurate and objective an analysis as possible of American policy in Southeast Asia will be less than complete. As the National Intelligence Estimates cited in the Department of Defense study have already been declassified in part, there should be no problem in their release to the Committee in classified form.

I note your reluctance to allow these documents to be examined by members of the Government outside of the Executive Branch. As I am sure you are aware, it is the conviction of members of the Foreign Relations Committee that access to such documents is vital to the exercise of

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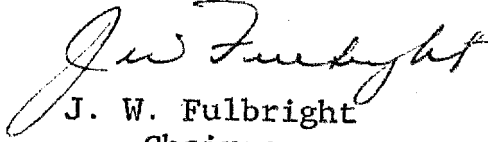
Mr. Richard Helms

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Congress's constitutional role in the oversight of American foreign policy. If you feel that you are unable to grant our request on your own authority, I would appreciate your taking this matter up with the appropriate authorities. If you prefer not to do this, please inform me as to whom I should direct this request.

Sincerely yours,


J. W. Fulbright
Chairman

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2	Mr. Maury				
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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
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Remarks: <p><i>Jack</i></p> <p><i>This is going to take some thought.</i></p> <p><i>This refers to Zurbuzlet 4 Jan 72 letter</i> <i>mt</i></p>					
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